

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

A serious epidemic of measles is raging at Tweed.
Stratford will spend \$14,000 on its Public Schools this year.
Piton's High School was badly damaged by fire on Saturday.
Engineer Baker and Fireman Smythe were killed on the C.P.R. at Moose Jaw.
Branford legislators are talking of establishing a civic electric lighting plant.
Hon. C. Fitzpatrick has been re-elected lieutenant-governor of the bar of the district of Quebec.
Mr. W. B. McMurrich, has been appointed to enforce the alien labor law at Toronto.
More than a score of Klondikers fell through the ice near Crater Lake and were drowned.
The G. T. R. will construct 250 refrigerator cars for the general service of the system.
Mr. F. Bourassa, ex-M. P., known as "the father of the Canadian House of Commons," is dead.
A. F. McDougall, brother of Judge McDougall, Toronto, attempted to commit suicide at Winnipeg.
The G. T. R. has accepted Montreal's offer of city land for the erection of new G. T. R. head offices.
It is possible that the ship-building yards of the Hertram Company may be moved from Toronto to Kingston.
News has been received at Montreal of the drowning at Bangor, Wales, of T. F. B. Evans, C. P. R. agent at Liverpool.
London's City Solicitor holds that the corporation has no power to raise money for cinder paths by taxing bicyclists.
The report that there is to be a general deduction of salaries on the G. T. R. is denied by the management at Montreal.
The barque Crofton Hall, from Dundee for New York, is a wreck off Sable Island. The crew have been brought to Halifax.
Five destitute children, whose parents had deserted them, were found in St. Sauveur, Quebec, Tuesday, half dead from cold and hunger.
Hamilton workmen will ask the Board of Education to give the teaching of domestic science a trial in one or two of the Public Schools.
Five hundred tons of coal sank five feet with Smith & Company's dock at Owen Sound on Saturday. Fifty yards of C.P.R. track also settled.
Alexander Milloy, traffic manager of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Co., at Montreal, has resigned after 50 years of service in the company.
The Toronto Board of Control has decided to recommend the appropriation of \$100,000 for the provision of additional school accommodation in the city.
An Italian named Sonjer has been sentenced at Nanaimo, B. C., to imprisonment for life for wounding a man named Jones at Halle Crossing with intent to murder.
Angelo Oliver, an alleged New York murderer, traced to Halifax, has eluded the authorities there as a result of a false description telegraphed from New York.
The Kingston Board of Education has adopted progressive ideas in regard to cheap school books. Each pupil will be supplied with an outfit of books at a small yearly fee.
Twenty-four thousand six hundred bushels of Quebec potatoes have been shipped into the United States since last Saturday. The increased demand is a result of the war.
It is reported at Vancouver, B. C., that an Anglo-French company intends to build a telegraph line from Vancouver to Dawson City, via Skaguay, Jiya and Wrangle.
Wm. Hemstock of Buffalo was found dead in his uncle's backyard at Hamilton. George Goodale has been arrested on a charge of aggravated assault on Hemstock. An inquest will be held.
E. C. Gildersleeve and W. Moore, of Kingston, are organizing a party to proceed to the Klondike. Already five young men have signified their willingness to join the gold hunting expedition.
A Buelh Man, correspondent writes that Hon. J. C. Mickle had informed him that the Canadian Pacific Railway had purchased the Great North-West Central Railway and that that line would be extended at least twenty miles this year.
Adam Thomson late city clerk of Nanaimo, B. C., who pleaded guilty at the Assizes to having falsified the city accounts and stolen \$100 of the city's funds, has been sentenced to fifteen months with hard labor. He has a wife and child and pleaded mercy on their account.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The great Welsh coal strike will be settled this week in a compromise or a complete victory for the men.
British Board of Trade returns for April show an increase in imports of \$20,559,000, and a decrease in exports of \$11,620,000.
Brit and American papers, including The New York Sun, warmly endorse the proposed Anglo-Saxon alliance. France and Spain resent it.
Owing to the United States being at war, the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Worcester, Mass., has decided not to celebrate the 24th of June this year.

The engagement is announced in London of William Angus Montagu, ninth Duke of Manchester, to Joan, daughter of Charles Henry Wilson, M. P. for West Hull, a noted shipowner.
Lieut. Penant, of the Canadian Artillery, present quartered at Aldershot, has entered for several of the competitions at the Royal Military Tournament, to be held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, from May 19 to June 2.
The third drawing-room of the season was held Tuesday at Buckingham Palace by Queen Victoria. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Beatrice, and Princess Henry of Prussia. There was a large attendance.

UNITED STATES.

Joseph Leiter, the Chicago grain king, is held responsible for the bread riots in Italy.
Over one hundred cottages at Scandaga Park, Fulton County, N. Y., a popular summer resort, were destroyed by fire at midnight on Tuesday.
The Arkansas River has left its banks causing great loss of life and damage to property in the neighbourhood of Little Rock, Ark.
Edouard Remenyi, the Hungarian violinist, dropped dead at the Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco, while performing on Saturday.
Bram, the murderer of Captain Nash, of the barquentine, Hesper, Fuller, has notified the world that he "will accept" the last jury's verdict, imprisonment for life.
Former General Manager Toucey, of the New York Central Railroad, recently appointed assistant to President Galloway, has retired from active service, with the usual honor of a pension.
The United States Senate Committee on Finance has decided to increase the tax on manufactured tobacco to 16 cents per pound. The War Revenue bill provided for a tax of only 12 cents per pound.
At Washington on Tuesday Judge Hogner signed a decree granting Frances Hodgson Burnett, the novelist, a divorce from Dr. S. M. Burnett, a well-known oculist of that city. She is permitted to resume her maiden name of Hodgson.
The Board of Railroad Commissioners of New York State issued an order exempting the railroads from the law compelling them to equip ten per cent. of the freight cars each year with continuous power of air brakes for the years 1897 and 1898.
GENERAL.
Austria has decided not to suspend the corn duties.
Fourteen hundred fishermen were drowned off the Japanese coast.
Russia and Japan have agreed not to interfere with independent Corea.
Russia will not allow foreigners to land at Port Arthur or Ta-lien-wan without passports.
It is reported that rioters have burned the Japanese Consulate at Shashi, Hu-Pei province, China.
The American students of Halle have protested against the unfriendly attitude of the German press towards America.
The Oceanic Co.'s steamer Moana left Sydney, N.S.W., for San Francisco on Wednesday with a gold shipment of 500,000 sovereigns.
The Queen of Belgium, who is a daughter of the late Archduke Joseph of Austria, while driving near Brussels on Saturday, was upset in a lake, but rescued uninjured.

IS POSTPONED.

United States Will Not Leave Tampa Yet Awhile.

A despatch from Tampa, says:—On Thursday night readiness and anticipation were the dominant features of camp. Tampa's streets, of late peopled by brave and pleasure-loving soldiers, were those of a deserted city. Men were rigorously confined in the camp and were given orders to instantly complete their finishing touches. Kits were strapped, and the highest point of expectation reached. But Friday morning all hopes of an immediate move were shadowed by the report that a Spanish fleet was approaching Martinique, and intimating that the invasion of Cuba was again postponed. Here, then, it seems that the army must wait until the phantom-like Spanish fleet has been dealt with. This is the popular belief, but Tampa is the home of many rumours, the most ridiculous being that we are threatened with bombardment. Although for a moment delayed, there has been no withdrawal of previous orders, and all that is required is instructions to proceed southward. At present nine transports, with their burdens of ammunition are afloat at this city, and an L. L. Port Tampa to which twelve others are en route.

FOR MAKING FELT.

The American soft felt hat is all the rage in the leading Australian colonies. The rabbit pest in those colonies may yet become a source of wealth, as the skin is of value for felt making.

PARADISE INCOMPLETE.

Teacher—Now, Johnnie, why did Adam and Eve leave paradise? Weren't they satisfied with it?
Johnnie—No; they didn't have no wheel.

VERY TRUE.

Hewitt—While I was away I was made a lion of.
Jewett—There must have been some magicians where you were.
Hewitt—What do you mean?
Jewett—Only a magician can turn a jackass into a lion.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

CHAMBERLAIN'S SPEECH ON AN ANGLO-SAXON ALLIANCE.

They Understand Each Other—Great Britain May Be Confronted by a Combination of Powers at Any Time.

A despatch from London, says:—The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, made an important speech on public affairs at Birmingham on Friday evening. Mr. Chamberlain, after deprecating the constant assertions in certain quarters that Lord Salisbury was "discredited" and the Government "weak and vacillating" said:—"If foreign nations believe and act upon those statements, they will find themselves much mistaken, and that courteous diplomacy and graceful concessions are not incompatible with a firm maintenance of the country's honour and interests."

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Then declaring that he intended to make "a plain statement of facts unfettered by the mysteries and reticencies of the diplomacy of half a century ago, which, without revealing secret negotiations, should be understood." Mr. Chamberlain said he would accept the judgment of the people as willingly as that of the wisest diplomatist in the world. Referring to the policy of strict isolation that England has pursued since the Crimean war, he remarked that this had been "perfectly justifiable," but, he added, "the time has arrived when Great Britain may be confronted by a combination of powers, and our first duty, therefore, is to draw all parts of the Empire into close unity, and our next to maintain the bonds of unity with our kinsmen across the Atlantic." (Loud cheers.)

ANGLO-SAXON ALLIANCE.

There is a powerful and generous nation," said Mr. Chamberlain, "speaking one language, bred of our race, and having interests identical with ours. I would go so far as to say that a terrible war may be even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance." (Prolonged cheers.) It is one of the most satisfactory results of Lord Salisbury's policy that at the present time these two great nations understand each other better than they have ever done, since over a century ago they were separated by the blunder of a British Government.

CHINESE SITUATION.

Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to draw a gloomy picture of the situation in China, "where we have to count with Russia, as in Afghanistan, and not having an army of a defensive frontier in China, and cannot therefore injure Russia without an ally. The fate of the whole Chinese Empire is involved, and our interests are so enormous that no more vital question was ever presented for decision to the British nation and a British Government. Unless the fate of China is to be decided without England's voice, we must not reject the idea of an alliance with those powers whose interests are similar to ours."

25,000 TROOPS NEEDED IN MANILA.

The Small Force the United States Proposes to Send Will Be Utterly Useless.

A despatch from Hong Kong says:—A rumour has been cabled here that 5,000 American troops were assembling at San Francisco for service in Manila. I interviewed a gentleman familiar with the situation in the Philippines, who says that the United States could not do a more useless thing than to send a small force of troops there. "The plague," he says, "is rampant at Canton, and growing in virulence at Hong Kong, where more Europeans have been attacked this year than ever before. The Manila climate will be the death of more than half of those sent out here inside of four months. Besides they will be of little or no use. Five thousand troops are enough to take the field against the Spanish if the latter are able to fight at all, and if the Spaniards are over-helped by the insurgents the American soldiers are not needed to do garrison work. That number would be absurdly inadequate if the United States had the idea of occupying the Philippines permanently. No troops should be sent there until autumn, when not less than 25,000 men should be landed at Manila. Unacclimatized recruits will die like flies during the summer."

TWO SIDES TO EVERYTHING.

Aspley—But McLerie is not so bad as they say; there is a better side to him.
Buttle—Indeed, what is it?
Aspley—Mrs. McLerie.

Some of the best sausages exported from Germany to the United States are made of horses.

A funeral procession halted before a public house in Sydney, Australia, before which was a bulletin containing the score of a cricket match then in progress. The four occupants got out of the carriage, read the score, returned to the vehicle, and the procession resumed its course after one of them had shouted the score to the next coachman. Thus was the news proclaimed through the line.

It is considered immodest for Chinese women to let their small feet, acquired by such painful torture, be seen peeping out from underneath their dresses. Any Chinese picture which shows feet of this kind is considered positively indecent by the Celestials.

NEWS FROM SPAIN.

The Country Is in a Sad Plight—Madrid Authorities Concerned About the Provisions of the City.

A despatch from Madrid, says: A despatch received here from Havana on Tuesday afternoon says the Spanish steamer Montserrat, which, with a valuable cargo, troops and a large sum of money intended for Havana, escaped the United States fleet and entered the port of Cienfuegos, Cuba, has now run the blockade of the American squadron, and has entered the port of Havana in safety. It is claimed here that this proves the blockade of the Cuban ports is ineffectual.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday the Catalonian deputies strongly protested against the proclamation of martial law in Barcelona, as there have been no disorders there. The Minister of the Interior, Senor Capdepon, replied that the authorities of Barcelona undoubtedly had good reasons for their action. Thereupon the Catalonian deputies declared they would postpone their intended interpellation of the Minister of War "until a proper government has been formed." A Valencian deputy declared the Captain-General of Valencia, had threatened the newspapers, saying he would break up their forms if they printed matter attacking the Government.

The Government intends to insist that the Cortes sit continuously until the war measures are adopted. The Minister of Finance, Senor Puigcerver, declares that until the credits are voted it is impossible to meet the demands for ammunition and provisions for Cuba, Porto Rico, and Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands, and to obtain the necessary stock of coal. Captain-General Blanco has cabled an urgent request for considerable supplies of provisions, which the Government cannot despatch until the Cortes have voted the war measure. The authorities here are greatly concerned about the provisions for this city. It is estimated that the stock of wheat will be consumed inside of a month, and measures are being taken to purchase wheat abroad.

The bread riots at Alicante, the seaport of Valencia, which began on Monday were continued all night, the women taking part in the work of destruction.

A riotous mob paraded the streets, demanding cheaper bread and other necessities of life. The rioters marched to the factories, where they were joined by the people who were at work. Later they sacked the control bureau and burned the furniture and archives. A strong force of gendarmes was sent to the scene, and a charge was made, upon the mob, which was temporarily dispersed. But the rioters reformed, and attacked and burned all the bonded warehouses, after possessing themselves of the wheat in storage.

An official despatch from Porto Rico says the Bolinao has arrived there, joined by the people who were at work. She was chased by an American warship. The despatch says also that provision ships have arrived, assuring Porto Rico a supply for several months.

WATER FOR THE TROOPS.

The Problem of Securing a Supply for the Army a Serious One.

A despatch from Tampa, says:—How to obtain a sufficiently large supply of water for the use of the army of invasion during its voyage from Port Tampa to the port in Cuba, where the troops are to be landed, is a question which is engaging the serious attention of the military officials who have the expedition in charge. General Wade, who is in command here, visited Port Tampa, to ascertain what the needs of the expedition would be in this respect, and what provision could be made to supply them. He found that of the transports, which, so far as is known at present, will form the fleet to take the army to Cuba, only two are provided with apparatus for distilling water. These are the Olivette, which can distill 3,000 gallons daily, and the Florida, leaving the Comal, Allegheny, Berkshire, Arizona, Alamo, Miller, San Marco, Whitney and Gussie with a supply to last only a little longer than that usually carried by steamers. It is believed the men and animals will not be on the vessels more than two days, if the weather is good, but a supply sufficient to last ten days is desired. The quantity of water necessary for the army during this time will be very large, and while a way out of the difficulty will no doubt be found by the use of tanks, yet it is likely men and animals will be placed on a short water allowance during the voyage.

LAW ON MATRIMONY.

Certain laws in England are not so strict now as they were in the reign of Charles II. In the year 1670 this curious act of Parliament was passed: "That all women, of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether virgins, maids or widows, that shall, from and after the passing of this act, impose upon and betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's male subjects, by scents, paints, cosmetics, washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high-heeled shoes, or bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft, sorcery and such like misdemeanors, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void."

WANTED IT BACK.

The Telephone Girl—Our engagement must be broken.
The Young Man—Very well, Ring off, please.

BLANCO MAKING READY.

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO IMPROVE HAVANA DEFENCES.

Skirmish Between Boats and Shore—Doings of the Blockading Squadron.

A despatch from Key West, says:—Matters have been ordinarily brisk during the last twenty-four hours inside the lines of the Havana blockading squadron.

Saturday afternoon the gunboat Osceola and torpedo boat Ericsson had a lively skirmish between Cojimar and Havana with the Spanish soldiers on shore.

General Blanco no longer fears that Havana will be attacked from the sea. Admiral Sampson and his big battleships and formidable monitors no longer haunt him; they have disappeared. Blanco knows not where they have gone, but any apprehension he might have entertained went with them.

NEW BATTERIES ERECTED.

East of Morro, and half-way up the slope that rises to the old San Diego fort, is a new battery, bearing on the approach along the shore from the direction of Matanzas. This battery is just being completed. To-day I could see soldiers throwing up big sand embankments to protect the guns. It contains four 10-inch rifles, two of which are mounted in barbette.

These preparations show that Blanco has not been sleeping. The sea defences of Havana are twice as strong as they were a month ago. Lately, however, Blanco has begun to fear an attack by land. For this he is not so well prepared, but his soldiers are making extraordinary efforts to strengthen the land defences.

Havana's principal defence from assault by land is a trocha, which extends around the city at an average distance of ten miles. East of Havana this trocha terminates at Cojimar, where there is a battery sweeping the little bay. The trocha is like other trochas, only much stronger. It consists of a series of stone forts, with barbed wire barriers strung between and protected by rifle pits and earthworks.

BLANCO GETTING READY.

For two weeks Blanco has had thousands of soldiers working to strengthen these lines of defence. He has been constructing an inner line of redoubts and intrenchments. This will be completed within two weeks.

Blanco has evidently expected an American army to land in Cuba before this, judging from his preparations. For the last week he has been moving large bodies of troops and field artillery from Havana to the outer line of defence. The movement of these troops has been plainly discernible from the gunboats which patrol close inshore. For convenience, and probably in lieu of better roads, thousands of Spanish soldiers march along the beach. They keep a sharp lookout for gunboats and generally retire into the woods when one appears.

A BRUSH WITH THE ENEMY.

Sometimes they show their teeth in a funny way. Captain Purcell of the Osceola observed a body of about five hundred Spanish infantry and cavalry marching eastward along the beach, about four miles west of Cojimar. Captain Purcell signalled the torpedo boat Ericsson and the two stood inshore at full speed. The Ericsson had only three small guns, and the Osceola, being one of the mosquito fleet, boasts of one 3-pounder forward and a Gatling aft.

They did not look very formidable to the Spaniards, who drew up on the beach and waited. When within one thousand yards both boats opened with shrapnel. The first few shells flew wide, and the Spaniards defiantly replied with rifle volleys. Bullets splashed like hail about the boats, but did no damage.

After a few shots our gunners got the range. In rapid succession the shells burst among the Spaniards, who promptly broke ranks and took to the woods. The Spaniards are known to have lost half a dozen men killed and wounded. It was a brisk little skirmish which it lasted.

Saturday morning bodies of troops could be occasionally seen marching eastward between Havana and Cojimar, but they kept well under cover. The Osceola steamed slowly along within eight hundred yards of the beach with a chip on her shoulder, but the enemy appeared to have lost their inclination to fight gunboats.

The rainy season has begun in Cuba. The last three days heavy rains have fallen in the interior, and big black clouds continually hang over the island.

TO BLOW UP THE FLEET.

A Fresh Example of Spanish Treachery Brought to Light.

A despatch from Hong Kong, says:—A fresh example of Spanish treachery seems to have come to light. It is said that the priests and Sisters of Charity of the Cavite hospital, in a procession, bearing crosses etc., petitioned Rear-Admiral Dewey not to massacre the sick and wounded, which naturally he did not do. The Spaniards, it is added, thereupon thanked the Americans for their humanity, and repaid them by informing them of a narrow channel which they said, was not mined, while the broad channel, they explained, was fully mined. An investigation upon the part of the Americans, however, revealed the contrary to be the case, and the mines were blown up by the sailors of the